at the critical stages of crop growth, effective control of weeds, insects/pests and diseases etc. Besides, adoption of soil & water conservation measures, sequence cropping and inter are propogated.

For increasing the production of foodgrains, Centrally Sponsored Programmes viz, Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based cropping Systems areas and National Pulses Development Projects are being implemented.

Lowering of foodgrains production target

4006. SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALA PANDEY:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set a lower food production target for the year 1998-99 than the target set by the Planning Commission for this period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the major grains/crops that would contribute significantly in the shoftfall: and

(d) the impact of reduction in the target on per capita availability of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The target for foodgrains production for the year 1998-99 is under finalisation in consultation with Planning Commission.

Wheat Production

4007. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of wheat in the last season and how much it was less that the preceding season and the reasons therefor;

(b) how government have planned to overcome the deficit;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage our farmers to produce more wheat; and

(d) if so, what are the incentives announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The production of wheat is likely to be 66.38 million tonnes in 1997-98 as compared to 69.27 million tonnes in 1996-97, thus showing a fall of 2.89 million tonnes. The fall in production of wheat may be attributed to the unseasonal rains and prolonged cloud cover during the months of November and December, 1997 causing delayed sowing of wheat in some areas. It had also led to resowing of wheat in certain other areas resulting in low productivity.

(b) The government has decided to import 1.50 million tonnes of wheat during 1998-99.

(c) and (d) For increasing the production and productivity of wheat in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems/Areas is being implemented. Through this Scheme, incentives are being provided to the farmers on the use of high yielding varieties of seeds, improved farm implements and sprinkler irrigation sets, so as to motivate them to adopt improved crop production technologies. Besides, for the transfer of improved crop production technologies, field demonstrations and farmers' training are also being organised under the Scheme.

Besides to popularise the recently released notified wheat varieties, the Seed Minikit Programme of Wheat including propagation of new technology is also being implemented in the country.

The minimum support price of wheat has been increased over the years to induce the farmers to produce more wheat.

उन्नत किस्म के दुधारू पशुओं का विकास

4008. **श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नैशनल डेयरी रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट द्वारा दुधारू पशुओं की दो उन्नत किस्मों का विकास किया गया है:

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन उन्नत किस्मों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं और उनकी दूध देने की क्षमता कितनी है;